



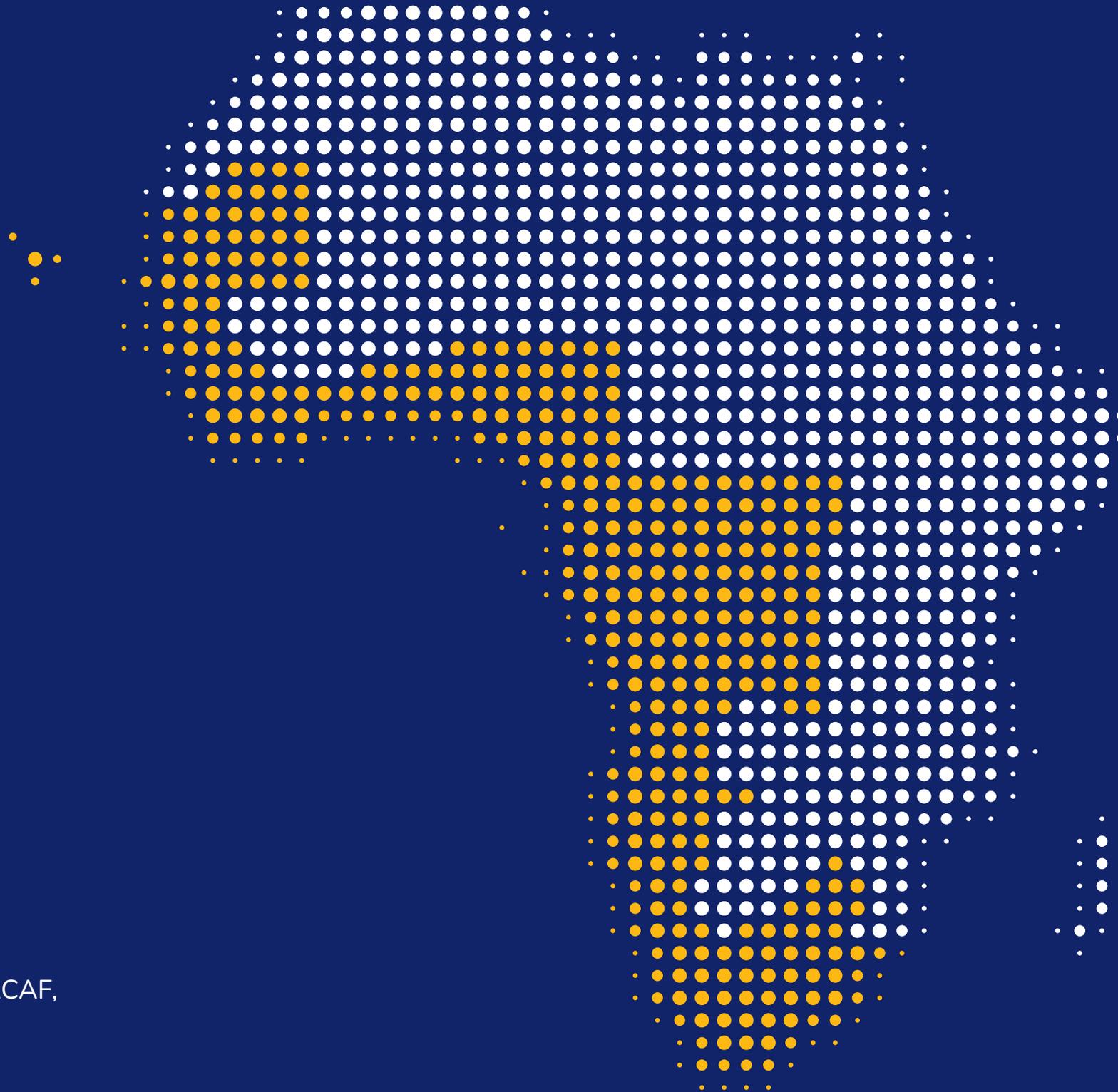
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Annual Report 2025



GIWACAF

For more information on GI WACAF,
please visit www.giwacaf.net



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About the Project

Launched in 2006, the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) Project is a partnership between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, a global oil and gas industry association for improving environmental and social performance, strengthening the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and combat oil pollution.

The GI WACAF Project's mission is to develop and consolidate national systems for preparing and responding to oil spills in 22 countries in West, Central and Southern Africa. Therefore, the Project is in accordance with the provisions set out in the

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90).

To achieve its mission, the GI WACAF Project develops and organizes workshops, seminars and exercises whose objectives are to communicate about existing best practices in all aspects of preparedness and response, drawing on the expertise and experience of governments, industries and other organizations working in this specialized sector. To prepare and implement its activities, the Project relies on a dedicated network of Focal Points from competent national authorities and local

oil industry offices. Promoting cooperation among all relevant governmental agencies, the oil industry and all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels is a key component of the Project during these activities.

The GI WACAF Project operates and delivers activities thanks to the contributions of the IMO and eight oil companies that are members of IPIECA: Azule Energy, BP, Chevron, Eni, ExxonMobil, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, Shell and TotalEnergies.



2025 Activities Overview

Legend:

Online Courses, Webinars, and Remote Conferences

GI WACAF National Activities Implemented
(remote and in-country)

GI WACAF Regional Conference

External Commitments

National Exercise

Communication

Date	Countries/ stakeholders involved	Type of activity	Topic
February	Guinea	Remote Support	National Emergency Response Plan Update
April	United Kingdom	External Commitment	Participating in INTERSPILL 2025
April	United Kingdom	External Commitment	IPIECA Week/Marine Spills Working Group
April	Industry	Remote Conference/ Communication	Industry Engagement Remote Conference
May	São Tomé and Príncipe	National workshop	Workshop for developing the National Emergency Response Plan
July	Kenya	External Commitment	Participation in the MASEPOLREX 2025 Regional Oil Spill Response Exercise
July	South Africa	Sub-regional Workshop	Sub-regional Workshop on Compensation related to Oil Pollution

Legend:

Online Courses, Webinars, and Remote Conferences

GI WACAF National Activities Implemented
(remote and in-country)

GI WACAF Regional Conference

External Commitments

National Exercise

Communication

Date	Countries/ stakeholders involved	Type of activity	Topic
July	All	Communication	Newsletter no. 1
September	Namibia	Remote Support	Launching the National Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (NOSCP) Update
September	The Gambia	National Workshop	Workshop to develop national dispersant use policy
October	Congo	External Commitment	Participating in the SIREN training program, aboard Tonnerre, the amphibious sea vessel
October	Senegal	Sub-regional Workshop	Sub-regional Workshop to harmonize and cooperate using dispersants
November	South Africa	National Workshop	National Emergency Planning Workshop for Potentially Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)
December	All	Communication	Newsletter no. 2

2025 Review

The year 2025 was the first full year of the three-year 2025-2027 cycle, during which our focus is on consolidating achievements and gradually expanding the topics we address. In total, more than 10 technical activities (national workshops, sub-regional workshops, remote support and international interventions) were carried out in 13 countries with our 22 partners.

This year marked a particularly fruitful commitment to our external partners but also welcomed new partnerships. For the first time, GI WACAF contributed to the SIREN Mission in the Gulf of Guinea co-organized by the French Navy and the Architecture of Yaoundé, participated in the MASEPOLREX exercise in Kenya, took part in the Interspill 2025 international conference, as well as in the International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference (EOW2025), thereby strengthening the Project’s visibility and its consistent action within regional and international dynamics to prepare for and combat marine pollution. This participation

made it possible to consolidate relationships with international organizations, industry players and specialized technical networks, while capitalizing on the experience we have acquired in West, Central and Southern Africa.

Number	GI WACAF Project Pillars
1	Remote assistance on technical & policy aspects
2	Communication and Networking
3	Hybrid national & sub-regional activities



This year also saw industry mobilization remote conference reconvene every six months, including two sessions organized in 2025. Our members' commitment has highlighted both the need and the positive results that flow from this invitation for GI WACAF and local industry players to engage in dialogue. This year's mobilization is a positive signal and feeds the ambition of perpetuating and strengthening this format in 2026, as we harmonize initiatives and complementary actions for preparation and combat.

On a technical level, 2025 will remain a pivotal year with the organization of the first activity devoted to potentially hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) by GI WACAF. Held in Durban, South Africa, this workshop is a testament to the Project's capacity to act across all issues related to maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment, beyond the initial field of action focused on oil. It marks the Project's natural evolution toward a more global approach to maritime risks, following International Maritime Organization regulation changes.

In addition, a major sub-regional cooperation project began in 2025. A workshop was organized that brought six West African countries together to develop a sub-regional dispersant use policy. This initiative fully illustrates the three-stage systemic approach that GI WACAF applies in its long-term support of partner States, namely:

1. **Establishing a solid legislative and regulatory framework**, which is the basis for an effective national preparedness and response system;
2. **Implementing the framework operationally**, by developing appropriate policies, processes and tools; and
3. **Integrating cross-sectional aspects**, such as cross-border cooperation, information sharing and database creation, which are recognized as essential to a sustainable and effective approach.

By combining national capacity building, thematic HNS expansion, strengthening dialogue with industry players and deepening international partnerships, 2025 was a particularly structuring and dynamic year for this new three-year cycle. It confirms the GI WACAF Project's maturity and its capacity to evolve while maintaining a consistent strategic approach in favor of sustainable protection of the marine environment and coastal populations.

Governance and Secretariat

GI WACAF Chair



Tania Augusto
Senior Advisor for
ExxonMobil Angola

GIWACAF Vice-Chair



Andrew Tucker
Oil Spill Manager for bp



Joel Conwell
Senior Global Crisis
Advisor for Chevron

International Maritime Organization



Patricia Charlebois
Senior Deputy Director



Chiara De La Mea
Head of Pollution Preparedness
and Response Section

Implementation Level



Anaïs Guillou
GI WACAF Project Manager



Marine Laigle
GI WACAF Project Coordinator

2025 GI WACAF Remote Action

Support for developing the National Emergency Response Plan in the event of an oil spill in Guinea

Dates: January - July 2025

Remote

Specialist: Astan

In early 2025, the GI WACAF team initiated remote technical assistance with the Republic of Guinea. This support program aims to assist national authorities in developing a National Emergency Response Plan (NERP) in the event of an accidental oil spill or a spill of other potentially hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) in the marine and coastal environment. Guinean representatives requested support at the GI WACAF 2024 Regional Conference, stressing the need to strengthen their response capacity in the event of accidental marine pollution. However, due to the national context and upcoming presidential elections, support was put on hold and is expected to resume in 2026 when conditions improve.

Support for revising the national dispersant use policy in Senegal

Dates: January - July 2025

Remote

Specialist: Astan & ITOFF

During the last GI WACAF Regional Conference, Senegal expressed, through its action plan, its desire to update its national dispersant use policy in the event of an oil spill. The country also wished to initiate, with the support of the GI WACAF Project, a workshop with Mauritania, the Gambia and Guinea, to develop sub-regional dispersant use policy. In response to this request, the GI WACAF team remotely supported national authorities in implementing these priorities.

Review of Namibia's National Emergency Response Plan and Dispersant Use Policy

Dates: July - December 2025

Remote

Specialist: Marittima Limited

At the GI WACAF Regional Conference in 2024, Namibian authorities formally expressed the need to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to accidental marine pollution. That is why the GI WACAF team initiated remote assistance in the second half of 2025 to analyze the current National Emergency Response Plan and its dispersant use policy. This assistance will be finalized at the beginning of 2026 when a critical analysis providing a basis for work during a national workshop will be delivered to Namibian authorities.

2025 GI WACAF Activities Overview

São Tomé and Príncipe - National Workshop to Develop a National Emergency Response Plan

Dates: 19-23 May 2025

Organized and hosted by: Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment

Specialist: ITOFF

From 19 to 23 May in São Tomé, around twenty members of national institutions involved in preparing for and fighting pollution participated in a workshop to develop the National Emergency Response Plan (NERP) in the event of an oil spill in the ocean around the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Since 2022, GI WACAF has supported São Tomé and Príncipe in the development of its NERP through a structured planning process. In 2025, this collaboration led to the framework document's update. It was drafted with the ITOFF's support and translated into Portuguese, while integrating the technical

knowledge acquired during previous missions. This core content served as the operational basis for the workshop. The workshop's main technical objectives were to:

- Review:
 - » The key components and stages of NERP development
 - » GI WACAF's support activities
 - » The legal framework and status of international conventions
- Develop NERP technical content, including:
 - » The main risks identified in the country
 - » The review of the alert system
 - » The national organization, in general
 - » The maritime response
 - » The land response
- Understand spill response systems and oil industry resources for offshore drilling, as well as possible interfaces for the national spill response system (e.g. sessions with Shell, see program below).

- Propose a detailed action plan to assist national authorities in consolidating and finalizing the NERP and in creating a national spill response system.

The workshop consisted in various information and work sessions specific to each objective. The discussions that took place during the workshop inspired numerous proposals for the development of a national plan and made involving stakeholders relevant to the plan's implementation possible.

The working sessions' results led to the following recommendations: the urgent ratification of international compensation and preparedness conventions (OPRC, IOPC), while finalizing the National Emergency Response Plan (NERP) by the end of 2025 via a coordinated interinstitutional team. This framework must be formalized by decree and supported by the creation of a National Response Committee with a sustainable annual budget.

I.N.P.G.

**Instituto Nacional para a Promoção
Da Igualdade e Equidade de Género**

Telf 224797/227889 E- mail: inpg.stp@gmail.com



South Africa - Sub-regional workshop on oil pollution compensation

Dates: 22-24 July 2025

Organized and hosted by: Department of Transportation, South Africa

Specialist: IOPC Funds, ITOPF, P&I Club

This sub-regional workshop, hosted by South Africa in Cape Town, brought competent national authorities from the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Africa together in order to strengthen their capacity to manage and administer claims for compensation related to oil pollution damage.

Given coastal States' dependence on the maritime sector for their economic development and resource management, setting up solid liability and compensation frameworks is a strategic challenge. International conventions

such as the Civil Liability Convention (CLC), International Compensation Funds (IOPC), the BUNKER Convention and the HNS Convention offer essential legal guarantees, make ensure rapid compensation for victims possible all while facilitating the financing of measures to combat such incidents.

The workshop's main objectives were to better understand international conventions relating to compensation, to provide practical tools for preparing and submitting compensation claims (collecting documentation and evidence, evaluating impact, managing negotiations), and to clarify the roles of the various entities involved in the compensation mechanism, including IOPC, ITOPF and P&I Clubs.

Several recommendations were drafted after the working sessions. Participants are encouraged to share what they learned within their administrations, particularly with

departments that are likely to be involved in claims management. Should an incident occur, setting up dialogue with stakeholders early on is recommended. Stakeholders include insurers, IOPCs and technical experts. The dialogue aims to align responses with international convention requirements and to optimize cost reimbursement. States are also invited to clarify roles and responsibilities early on in the compensation process, to strengthen tracking and real time cost recording mechanisms, and to make sure liability limitations applicable from an incident's onset are well understood.





The Gambia - Workshop on developing national policy for the use of dispersants

Dates: 8-11 September 2025

Organized and hosted by: The Gambia Maritime Administration

Specialist: Marittima Ltd.

As part of its efforts to preserve marine and coastal biodiversity and to protect it from oil pollution, the Gambia has recently strengthened its national capacities to prepare for and respond to marine pollution, namely by developing its National Emergency Response Plan in 2024.

In order to support the establishment of a national dispersant use mechanism, the country requested assistance from the GI WACAF Project to develop a national dispersant use policy, in collaboration with main government agencies.

In response, GI WACAF organized and facilitated a workshop that took place from 8 to 11 September 2025 in Banjul. This workshop combined technical presentations, facilitated discussions, and group exercises, allowing

national stakeholders to jointly develop and frame a draft national chemical dispersant use policy in the event of an oil spill.

The relevant agencies were encouraged to urgently initiate the development of the sectoral plans and procedures provided for in the NERP strategic document, while refining coastal sensitivity mapping, particularly on the Tamara-Banjul axis. Finally, keeping skills available requires organizing simulation exercises drills to test intergovernmental coordination, in addition to awareness-raising seminars.

GI WACAF's support helped produce guidelines that aims to facilitate the drafting of the national dispersant use policy in the Gambia. The competent authorities and the associated working group are now responsible for taking this text towards its formalization and implementation.



South Africa - National Workshop on Emergency Planning for Potentially Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)

Dates: 25-28 November 2025

Organized and hosted by: the Department of Transportation and the South African Maritime Safety Authority

Specialist: ITOFF

Held in Durban, this workshop is the first activity devoted specifically to Potentially Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) that the GI WACAF Project implemented. Therefore, it is an important step toward broadening the Project's intervention scope beyond oil pollution.

The workshop's objective was to strengthen South Africa's national capacity to prepare for and respond to incidents involving HNS. In particular, it aimed to:

- improve the understanding of the principles, structure and operational mechanisms of an HNS emergency plan, in accordance with international conventions and best practices;

- promote effective coordination among competent authorities, to strengthen communication and decision-making processes in emergency situations, as well as to encourage inter-institutional and cross-border cooperation;
- and provide a framework for evaluating existing national mechanisms in order to identify gaps and provide recommendations for improving and harmonizing response strategies.

This workshop also served as a starting point for drafting the national HNS emergency planning framework. The shared ambition is to produce a first draft framework in the coming months. This builds on the dynamics and shared understanding established during the workshop.

In conclusion, the effective development and implementation of an HNS emergency plan will be based on sustained inter-institutional cooperation, the ratification of relevant international instruments such as the 2000 OPRC-HNS Protocol, as well as on continuing targeted training and exercise programs.



2025 Highlights

Sub-regional workshop to harmonize and cooperate on dispersant use

Dates: 28-31 November 2025

Organized and hosted by: High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Safety, Maritime Security and the Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR) and the National Maritime Affairs Agency (ANAM), Senegal.

West African coastal States share an interconnected marine space where pollution incidents can quickly spread across borders and exceed national capacities, making transnational cooperation essential. Response effectiveness depends on countries' ability to align policies, share information, mobilize external assistance and coordinate their actions seamlessly across jurisdictions, in accordance with the 1990 OPRC Convention and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency of the Abidjan Convention.

In this framework, GI WACAF supported a new initiative involving Mauritania, Senegal, the Gambia, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea to formalize a coherent sub-regional approach to fighting pollution. These countries share a particularly vast and interdependent maritime space, representing a cumulative Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) estimated at over 1.2 million square kilometers. This geographical and ecological proximity, combined with common economic interests, strengthens the case for a sub-regional dispersant use agreement, in order to streamline cooperation and mutual assistance that supports collective resilience in the face of oil spill risks.

In Dakar in November 2025, we co-organized in association with Senegalese authorities, the first workshop as part of a medium-term project. The objective is to ensure that national dispersant use policies are established and harmonized as much as possible across the six countries in order to

promote cooperation and mutual assistance in the event of an incident, based on national and sub-regional governance using an agreement.

In this context, the workshop's objective was to initiate discussions and reflections on developing such an agreement, according to the following four major components:

- Regulation and harmonization;
- Cooperation between countries, outside incidents;
- Assistance between countries, in the event of an incident; and
- International governance.

Subject to making this headway, the objective is to organize a second sub-regional workshop in 2026 in order to continue to consolidate dispersant use policy harmonization progress and, more generally, for cooperation and assistance across countries.



Results & Key Recommendations

This workshop made it possible to collectively address the technical, regulatory and operational issues related dispersant use, and to lay the foundations for a future general agreement on sub-regional cooperation and assistance. Throughout the week, the activities made it possible to draw up a shared inventory of national dispersant use policies, available capacities and practices; to identify overlap and the need for harmonizing across countries.

More importantly, the work also made it possible to define:

- The main components of a future agreement on cooperation and assistance in fighting pollution,
- The mechanisms for operational assistance between States,
- A permanent coordination framework to promote information sharing,
- Responsiveness in the event of an incident,
- A clear road map for approving, signing and implementing this instrument.

To ensure this collaborative project's success, countries must give priority to:

- Institutionalize technical monitoring by appointing official Focal Points and ensuring competent ministries' involvement.
- This commitment should result in active and transparent collaboration, including immediate information sharing - with GI WACAF support - on national regulations and on identifying the processes for signing the agreement.
- At the operational level, harmonizing legal frameworks is crucial, particularly for dispersant use, while updating national plans in dialogue with the oil industry.
- Finally, each State must assess its needs for external support and secure the resources needed to comply with the road map and to ensure the sub-regional agreement's effective entry into force.

After the work was completed, a common vision emerged: a sub-region that is more prepared, better connected and capable of acting collectively when faced with marine pollution risks. GI WACAF reiterated its commitment to supporting States by continuing the process with a second sub-regional workshop in 2026 in order to continue and consolidate results already obtained, up to the agreement's signature and its formal adoption, scheduled for 2027.



External Meetings, Conferences and Commitments

GI WACAF participation in Interspill 2025

April 2025

On 8 April 2025, the GI WACAF Project was pleased to participate in Interspill 2025, during the session on regional frameworks. The conference is one of the marine pollution control sector's main international meetings, bringing together key manufacturers, technology companies, innovators and consulting firms in the sector. They present their products and services to an international community of players committed to protecting marine environments. This year, GI WACAF gave a presentation on: "Adapting technical cooperation to region needs: how GI WACAF Project support has evolved to strengthen oil spill preparedness". This presentation was an opportunity to share project experience and to highlight its gradual evolution to better respond to the priorities expressed by West, Central and Southern African countries.

IPIECA Week & Marine Spills Working Group, London

April 2025

GI WACAF participated in the annual IPIECA week, during which the Marine Spills Working Group meeting was held. It is an IPIECA working group whose objective is to develop and share best practices globally, in order to enable industry players and stakeholders to improve oil spill preparedness and responses. As a project involved in sharing best practices, GI WACAF is invited to participate in group meetings in order to stay abreast of developments in the field. These meetings are also an opportunity to hear news from other global initiatives, such as the Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI), the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GI SEA), and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

Industry Engagement Remote Conferences

April and October 2025

The biannual remote conferences aim to bring together local industry players who are members of GI WACAF in the West, Central and Southern Africa region in order to share experiences and discuss GI WACAF and industry activities relating to oil spill preparedness and response.

Its main objectives are:

- Interacting with local industry players;
- Guaranteeing consistency in industry and GI WACAF-organized activities relating to oil spill preparedness and response; and
- Raising awareness about GI WACAF activities & the progress made by the Project.

In 2025, these two industry meetings took place in April and October. Presentations were given by **GI WACAF, Chevron, Renaissance Africa Limited, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total Energies Nigeria.**

MASEPOLREX Exercise 2025

July 2025

The GI WACAF team was pleased to participate in the MASEPOLREX 2025 regional oil spill response exercise. It is a key initiative for strengthening preparedness and response capabilities in the western Indian Ocean region. Organized by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), the exercise brought together national and regional players to test and strengthen cooperation in the event of a marine pollution incident.

As part of the event, GI WACAF presented Global Initiatives — a joint program with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA — focusing on the GI WACAF project and its mission to support national and regional oil spill preparedness in West, Central and Southern Africa in particular. The team also contributed to the evaluation process, supporting the exercise's analysis and the identification of lessons learned to improve future interventions.





SIREN 2025: Exercise on board the Tonnerre

October 2025

On 15 October 2025, GI WACAF participated on board Tonnerre, the Amphibious Helicopter Carrier, in SIREN training: the on-board academy for maritime safety in the Gulf of Guinea, led by the National Navy and the Yaoundé Architecture. This initiative aimed to strengthen maritime capacities in countries around the Gulf of Guinea through an intensive training and regional cooperation program.

Since 1 September 2025, thirty-six officers from twenty countries around the Gulf of Guinea and the Mediterranean have been following the SIREN25 program aboard Tonnerre. For six weeks, they learned about managing crisis situations at sea and in State action at sea, in a strategic area for marine environment safety and protection.

In this context, GI WACAF led a large-scale offshore oil spill simulation exercise so that trainees could put what they learned about pollution control into practice.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit TotalEnergies Congo's industrial base in Pointe-Noire, where the company's teams presented their operational systems and their response strategy in the event of marine pollution incidents.

Institutions We Work With



A Network of Trained and Dedicated GI WACAF Focal Points Across the Region

The GI WACAF Project relies on a network of government and industry Focal Points to ensure the effective implementation of its roadmap. Each year, our Focal Points' participation is essential to our program's successful implementation. We take this opportunity to thank all the GI WACAF Focal Points, and especially those acknowledged below, for their commitment and proactive contribution to the achievement of GI WACAF objectives.



Mrs. Stella Matlala, South Africa

Stella Matlala is currently Deputy Director of the Marine Environmental Protection Division at the Department of Transport of South Africa. Her action in strengthening oil spill preparedness and response in South Africa resulted in a productive collaboration between the GI WACAF Project and South Africa. Thanks to her commitment as the Focal Point of our project, GI WACAF was able to organize its first sub-regional workshop in Cape Town and a second national workshop in Durban, both in 2025.



Capt. Mamadou Ndiaye, Senegal

Captain Mamadou Ndiaye is currently the Secretary General of the High Authority in charge of the Coordination of Maritime Security, Maritime Safety and the Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR), in Senegal. As a Focal Point alongside his Head of Operations, Mr. Sougoufara greatly contributed to the success of the sub-regional workshop on harmonizing dispersant use that took place in Dakar this year.



the Italian Ministry of the Environment. In these positions, she used her expertise to negotiate and monitor the implementation of international cooperation measures for protecting and preserving marine environments.

Prior to joining the IMO, she was the Senior Claims Manager at IOPC (International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund), where she managed numerous oil spill cases around the world.

Mrs. Chiara Della Mea, IMO

Mrs. Chiara Della Mea is Head of the Pollution Preparedness and Response Section in the Marine Environment Division of the IMO. She works closely with the President of GI WACAF (IMO) and acts as the project's technical Focal Point.

With a degree in political science from the University of Pisa and a master's degree in marine management from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, she first worked for the Centre for Marine Applied Research (CMAR) and then for



Communication from the GI WACAF Project

Newsletter

To sign up for our newsletter, go to our [website](#)!

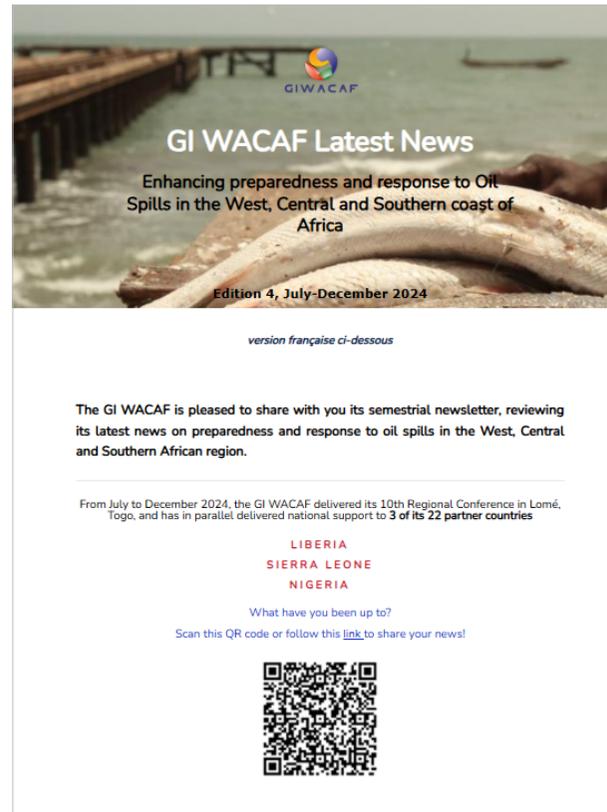
LinkedIn Page

The Project's LinkedIn page is now followed by more than 1,000 people thanks to the GI WACAF team's efforts to implement a new content strategy ensuring regular and varied updates.



Website

The activities, conferences, workshops and exercises organized by GI WACAF are regularly summarized and communicated on the Project website.



The Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa

Governments and Industries working together to enhance oil spill preparedness, response and cooperation

5200+

PEOPLE TRAINED

[FIND OUT MORE](#) ↓

1200+

PEOPLE ATTENDING EXERCISES

The Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) was launched in 2006.

Activities Planned In 2026

The GI WACAF 2026 Program is being developed based on feedback and recommendations gathered at the 10th Regional Conference, as well as requests for support received throughout 2025. In the new year, we will continue to work mainly on the following topics:

- sub-regional workshops on claims and the liability and compensation regime;
- Emergency Planning in the event of an oil spill;
- Dispersant Use Policies.





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The GI WACAF Project
is an IMO / IPIECA Cooperation